

Cash Transfers in Global Development (Global Development Lab)



Project Title	Cash Transfers in Global Development (Global Development Lab)
Project Summary	Development Innovation Ventures - the Global Development Lab's open innovation fund - is working with external partner, GiveDirectly, to test the use of "cash transfers" (small cash grants to households living in poverty) as a "benchmark" to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of USAID programs.
Country	United States
Agency	Agency for International Development
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	2

Project Description

Are you passionate about development economics? Have you heard of the use of "cash transfers" in global development? Are you interested in the idea of innovating new tools for assessing the cost-effectiveness of development programming? If so, this just might be the e-internship for you...

The U.S. Global Development Lab's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program wants you. Over the past 2 years, DIV has partnered with others in USAID and external partners, like GiveDirectly, Google.org, and Good Ventures, to test and refine a novel approach to assessing the cost-effectiveness of USAID program by benchmarking those programs against the performance of providing cash transfers to households living in poverty. This leverages the growing body of evidence on the cost-effectiveness of cash transfers as a programming tool in global development.

Specific e-internship activities may include:

- Reviewing and summarizing the latest academic publications on cash transfers

- Curating and creating content for a cash transfers and cash benchmarking newsletter to raise awareness of cash transfer among USAID staff

- Provide remote support to event planning and social media engagement on this work

- You name it! We want a creative, proactive intern who will propose his/her own ideas for how s/he can best leverage his/her skills to contribute to this effort!

What we're looking for: An economics-savvy creative, proactive, self-motivated intern, passionate about the role of innovation and evidence in driving change in international development. Has a background in

economics - ideally development economics and econometrics - and ability to read academic papers and policy briefs describing the evidence base (both impact and cost-effectiveness).

What you'll get: An opportunity to work with an incredibly talented team at USAID, with expertise in areas like deal sourcing and testing, innovator support, impact evaluation, and pay-for-performance financing. The sense of satisfaction that will come from supporting USAID as it refines a novel tool for understanding the cost-effectiveness of its programming. What more could you ask for?

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

Background on DIV

USAID's Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) program is an open competition founded on the principle that the next breakthrough development solution can come from anyone, anywhere. DIV seeks to bring in new ideas for solving problems facing millions around the world and to increase the accountability of these ideas for delivering more impact, for less money, with greater potential for sustainable scale. DIV strategically tests these ideas, gathers evidence of what works, finds failures quickly and cheaply, without long-term commitments, and continues to support only proven solutions. DIV was co-founded by Harvard development economist, Michael Kremer, who also serves as the Scientific Director for DIV.

DIV applies three pillars across its portfolio: evidence of impact, cost-effectiveness, and scale, informing how new ideas are selected and supported. Since DIV's founding in 2010, it has provided over \$70 million in catalytic funding for more than 150 innovations across 9 sectors and over 40 countries around the world.

The DIV model is designed to help us advance what works while avoiding long term investments in what doesn't. DIV blends best practice due-diligence strategies in its exciting new development approach that turns bright ideas into bold results: the DIV model includes tiered funding to manage risk; research approaches from economics to test for impact and cost-effectiveness; and development expertise from nonprofits and government.

DIV's tiered-funding model, inspired by venture capital, invests comparatively small amounts in relatively unproven concepts, and continues to support only those that prove they work. We support innovations across three stages, with applicants welcome to apply at any stage:

- Stage 1: Proof of Concept/Initial Testing (\$25,000 to \$150,000 per project)
- Stage 2: Testing and Positioning for Scale (\$150,000 to \$1,500,000)
- Stage 3: Transitioning Proven Solutions to Scale (\$1,500,000 to \$15,000,000)

For more information, check out our websites - www.usaid.gov/div and www.divportfolio.org - and follow us on Twitter @GlobalDevLab #DIVUSAID.

Language Requirements

None